

Tips for Reading Informational Texts

Before Reading

- Set a purpose for reading. Ask yourself why you are reading this particular text.
- Look over the text to see which elements appear (such as headings, subheadings, illustrations and captions, etc.).
- Examine the titles, headings, and subheadings, and scan for words that stand out.
- Look for words and phrases that might give you clues about how the information is organized.
- Read any overviews, summaries or questions. In a shorter piece, read the opening and concluding sentences or paragraphs.
- Examine each illustration and read the titles or captions.
- Recall what you already know about the topic.
- Record some questions you might have about the topic.

During Reading

- Divide the reading task into smaller chunks (chunking the text into paragraphs, chunking sections by sub-headings, etc.). Read a chunk, pause and think about what you read, and write a brief one-sentence summary or brief point-form notes to help you remember important and interesting information.
- Read quickly, then slowly. Skim the sections you think will support your purpose for reading. When you find specific information you want, slow down and read it word by word. You may need to reread the passage several times.
- Read the selection and jot down thoughts, responses to your questions and new questions that occur to you.

After Reading

- Read the selection again to confirm the main idea and supporting details.
- Make connections to what you already know about the topic. How does the information you have read add to or alter what you knew about the topic?
- Record your thinking about and responses to the text. For example, write a summary, complete a graphic organizer, create a sketch, or orally retell to yourself or a friend.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

"At the age of 15, I stumbled into weight lifting."



Arnold starred as Major 'Dutch' Schaefer, the leader of a specialized military rescue team, in the film *Predator*, which was his biggest box-office hit ever.

"Even as a little boy, I loved the idea of America," says Arnold Schwarzenegger. "I always wanted to come here."

Today, Arnold is one of the best-known bodybuilders and actors in the world. But as a child growing up in Graz, Austria, the idea of living in America and being so famous was beyond his wildest dreams. "We had very little money," explains Arnold, "barely enough for food."

"My father was a country policeman, and my mother did the cooking. We kids had to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning to do the milking and other work. Then we were off to school, and after school we came home and did more chores. Our life was very primitive. I knew

about America, and I wanted to see what it was like."

As a child, Arnold loved sports. He played soccer and swam. "Then, at the age of 15, I stumbled into weight lifting," he says. "I remember the great pride I took in knowing that lifting weights had been *my* idea. It was my decision, and it was the first time I started having some control over my life."

Arnold dreamed of becoming Mr. Universe, the world's top bodybuilder. He trained hard and won his first big bodybuilding contest when he was 18 years old. Soon after, in 1968, Arnold emigrated to America.

"I looked at America and the freedom of choice its people have, and I knew it was the way to go," says Arnold. "I knew I would never go back home to live. I would only return as a visitor." Arnold stayed in America.

Arnold won a number of important bodybuilding awards: He won the Mr. Universe title several times. He also won the Mr. World title, and he was Mr. Olympia six times.

In 1975 Arnold's movie career began. He starred in *Pumping Iron*, a film about the sport of bodybuilding. "I realized I was really an entertainer," he says. "I wanted to develop another area in which I could perform, and I made up my mind it would be acting."

Some people said a muscle-bound guy with a heavy accent and a last name that was hard to say would never make it as an actor. Arnold proved them wrong. After making *Stay Hungry*, *The Terminator*, *Commando*, and *Raw Deal*, he had his biggest box-office hit ever with *Predator*. *Terminator II* and *Running Man* followed.

Arnold is pleased with his success as a bodybuilder and an actor, and he enjoys a happy personal life. He's married to Maria Shriver, a TV news reporter. Arnold's lifestyle has certainly changed from his youth in Austria. He has become a well-known celebrity.

Arnold is an American citizen now, and he's very proud of it. "That's all I ever really wanted," he says. "I love America."

1. When did Arnold Schwarzenegger first dream of going to America?
 - A. In 1968, when Arnold emigrated to America.
 - B. When Arnold became an American citizen.
 - C. As a young child.
 - D. At six o'clock in the morning when he was doing the milking.

2. Which of the following activities does Arnold enjoy the most?
 - A. Swimming and soccer
 - B. Weight lifting and bodybuilding
 - C. Acting and bodybuilding
 - D. Entertaining and soccer

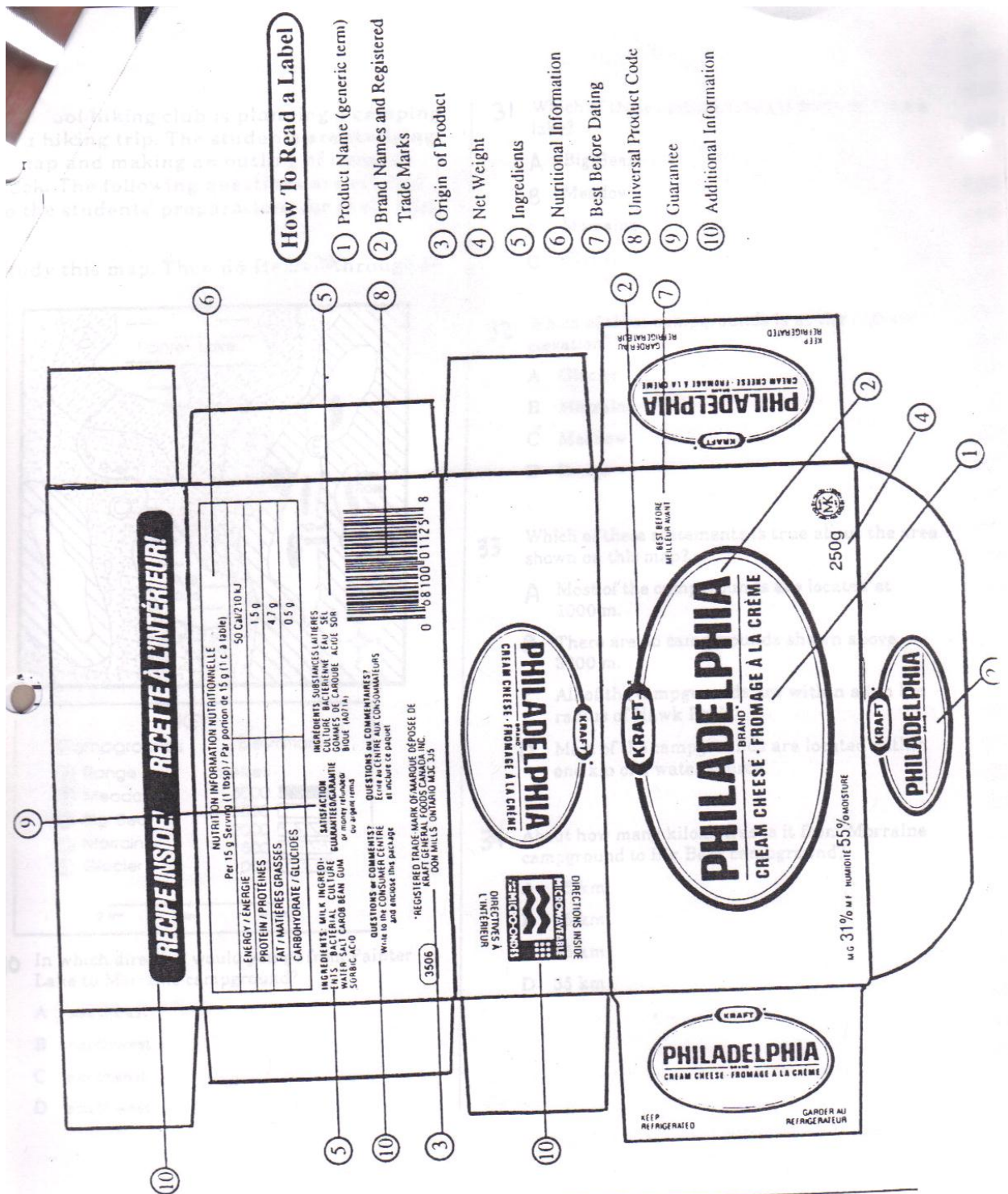
3. What is the best meaning for "primitive" as used near the end of the third paragraph?
 - A. exciting
 - B. simple
 - C. hard
 - D. boring

Written answers

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

4. Which of Arnold's movies was his biggest box-office hit?

5. Why was Arnold so pleased when he discovered bodybuilding?



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Philadelphia Cream Cheese

1.1 What is the major ingredient in Philadelphia Cream Cheese?

- a) Cheese culture
- b) Salt
- c) Carob bean gum
- d) Milk ingredients

1.2 Which company makes this product?

- a) Kraft
- b) Nabisco
- c) Philadelphia
- d) Don Mills

1.3 If you eat 15 grams (one tablespoon) of this product, how many calories will you be eating?

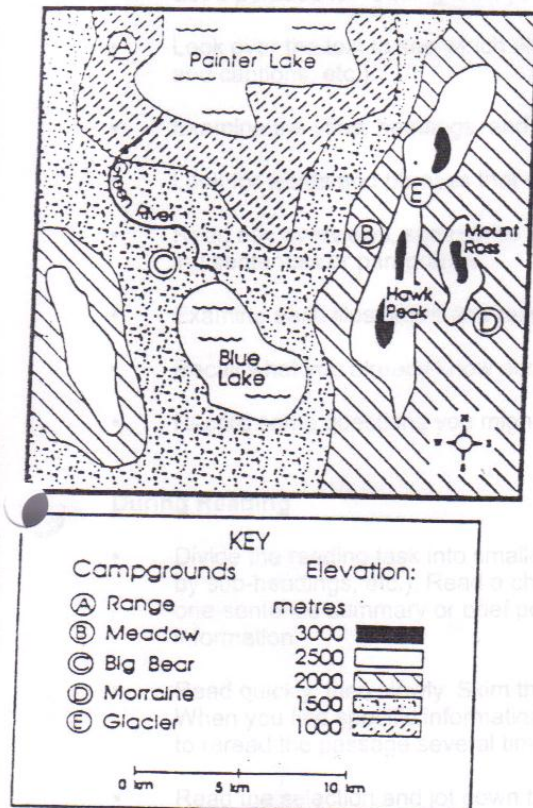
- a) 55
- b) 50
- c) 1.5
- d) 250

1.4 Which item in the numbered column at the right of the page gives information about the freshness of the product?

- a) ③ Origin of Product
- b) ⑤ Ingredients
- c) ⑦ Best Before Dating
- d) ⑧ Universal Product Code

A school hiking club is planning a camping and hiking trip. The students are studying a map and making an outline of items to pack. The following questions are related to the students' preparations for their trip.

Study this map. Then do Items 30 through 34



30 In which direction would you go from Painter Lake to Morraine campground?

- A southeast
- B northwest
- C northeast
- D southwest

31 Which of these campgrounds is farthest from a lake?

- A Big Bear
- B Meadow
- C Morraine
- D Glacier

32 Which of these campgrounds is at the highest elevation?

- A Glacier
- B Morraine
- C Meadow
- D Range

33 Which of these statements is true about the area shown on this map?

- A Most of the campgrounds are located at 1000 m.
- B There are no campgrounds shown above 3000 m.
- C All of the campgrounds are within a ten km radius of Hawk Peak.
- D Most of the campgrounds are located within one km of a water source.

34 About how many kilometres is it from Morraine campground to Big Bear campground?

- A 5 km
- B 15 km
- C 25 km
- D 35 km